

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above captioned application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) An easy-opening can end comprising an end panel, a score line in said end panel defining an openable panel portion; a pull tab defined by a nose, a handle and a medial portion between said nose and handle; means for securing said medial portion to said end panel with said nose adjacent said score line, said end panel including a convexly upwardly projecting protrusion underlying and contiguous said handle, and means defined by the material of said protrusion of elastically deforming said convexly upwardly projecting protrusion to an upwardly concavely opening and downwardly projecting protrusion upon the application of a downwardly directed manually applied force to said convexly upwardly projecting protrusion to form a gap between said handle and said elastically deformed upwardly concavely opening protrusion incident to severing said score line by imparting a lifting force to said handle.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The easy-opening can end as defined in claim 4 wherein said handle overlies said upwardly convexly projecting and upwardly concavely opening protrusion incident to imparting a lifting force to said handle.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The easy-opening can end as defined in claim 5 wherein said handle is contiguous said upwardly convexly projecting protrusion and defines a finger gripping gap with said protrusion in the upwardly concavely opening configuration thereof.